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SecDef Moves to Reassign Pilots From Non-Flying Jobs

Defense Secretary McNamara has asked the service secretaries to make a "case-by-case" review of 1,864 pilots now serving in top staff positions to determine if they could be replaced by either waivered pilots or non-pilots.

Pilots concerned are assigned to positions in DOD, JCS, other Defense agencies, other federal agencies, MAAG's, attaches and a variety of external assignments.

Mr. McNamara asked the secretaries to establish three categories: (1) positions where pilot experience is necessary; (2) positions where pilot experience is desirable but not essential; (3) positions where a non-pilot can fill the job equally well.

"As a general policy, qualified pilots currently assigned to positions in category three above should be replaced by non-pilots and reassigned to meet cockpit or cockpit-related operational requirements," the Defense Secretary's memo said.

"Positions in category one and category two should be filled, as fully as practicable, by waivered pilots and those suspended from flying for physical reasons," the memo continued.

The Defense Secretary asked the Secretaries to report to him by April 1 what actions have been taken to implement the policy.

Ambassador to Vietnam Lodge to Retire; President Names Bunker Successor

President Lyndon B. Johnson has announced the retirement of Ambassador to Vietnam Henry Cabot Lodge and his replacement by Ellsworth Bunker, former Ambassador to India and to the Organization of American States.

He said Eugene Locke, Ambassador to Pakistan, would become Deputy Ambassador in Vietnam, replacing William Porter.

Presidential assistant Robert Komer is being sent to Vietnam, the President added, "to strengthen General Westmoreland in the intensive operations that he will be conducting in the months ahead." He also pledged to assign to Gen. Westmoreland additional top-flight military personnel—"the best that the country has been able to provide."

GOLDEN ATOM AWARD—Gen. Frank S. Besson Jr., CG, Army Materiel Command (left), presents the Golden Atom Award to Morton D. Lewis (center) and Col. Donald S. Bowman, Army Pictorial Center commanding officer, for their work on the motion picture "Laser-Miracles with Light," which took honors in the 1966 International Electronics, Nuclear, Telecommunication and Motion Picture Ressegna held annually in Rome.

Enlisted Promotions in AF Go on Monthly Basis July 1

Air Force plans monthly promotions in all enlisted pay grades beginning July 1, as a move toward improving retention and increasing incentives.

The announcement by Gen. Bruce K. Holloway, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff, marks the first time all enlisted promotions will be on a monthly basis since the Air Force became a separate military department in September 1947.

In a speech at the Air Force Association's Outstanding Airmen Dinner, General Holloway noted lowering of some time-in-grade requirements.

"Fiscal years '66 and '67 were our best years for airmen promotions since the Korean War," he explained, "and, based on our approved ceilings for next year, we expect fiscal '68 to be another good one."

The general also pointed out that the largest number of E-8 and E-9 promotions are being made in April since the super-grades were established.

He said it is hoped that establishment of the office of Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force will increase the enlisted man's prestige and "give him yet another goal to work toward."

Washington Memos

DOD STATISTICS SHOW that 7,900 U. S. personnel have lost their lives in Vietnam through hostile action causes from Jan. 1, 1961 through March 4, 1967. Additionally, another 1,721 lost their lives from non-hostile action causes.

PUBLIC HOLDINGS of Series E and H U.S. Savings Bonds gained $116 million in February, according to Treasury Department officials. Cash sales of Series E and H bonds totaled $426 million during the month, while redemptions at cost price were $363 million, leaving a net increase at cost price of $63 million. Series E sales hit $394 million, a 22-year peak for February.

ATTACK CARRIER U.S.S. Oriskany has received its second Navy Unit Commendation for Vietnam combat service. Presented by RAdm. Vincent P. DePoix, commander Carrier Division Seven, citation praised Oriskany's crew and members of carrier Air Wing 16 for "outstanding courage, skill and determination . . . resulting in the destruction of vital military targets in Vietnam including surface-to-air missile installations."

FROM DECEMBER 1964 through February 1967, squadrons of the 3rd Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Group were credited with having saved 597 U.S. and allied personnel in Southeast Asia.

SCUBA DEVELOPMENT WORK by Navy Capt. Robert D. Workman was noted by Surgeon General of the Navy with the award of a Legion of Merit at a Pentagon ceremony. For more than four years, Capt. Workman was the principal investigator in developing helium-oxygen breathing mixtures for use in the Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus.

VUNG TAU SUB-AREA Command's 507th Army Postal Unit has opened an APO at in-country Rest and Recuperation Center in Vietnam. Part of 1st Logistical Command's Saigon Support Command, 507th R&R Center APO offers complete postal services to personnel on in-country R&R.

MARINE CORPS SCHOOLS, Quantico, Va., has established a speakers bureau consisting of Marines recently returned from Vietnam. Programs consist of a talk on the Southeast Asian country by a Marine veteran supplemented by a film and followed by a question and answer period.

ON APRIL FIRST, Lt. Col. Joan B. Weeks is scheduled to become Deputy Director of Women in the Air Force (WAF). She will replace Lt. Col. Helen R. Huyett, who has announced her retirement. Prior to the Pentagon assignment, Col. Weeks was stationed at Lindsey AS, Wiesbaden, Germany.

ARMY AVIATION MATERIEL Command has announced the awarding of a $1.26 million contract to Sikorsky Aircraft Division of United Aircraft Corp., Stratford, Conn., for production and delivery of armor kits for Army's CH-54A "Flying Crane" helicopter.

VALUE ENGINEERING Conference will be held in Washington Sept. 12-14 as an "in house" meeting, with the theme, "The role of VE in Support of Management Objectives." Department of Army is host for the meeting which will be attended by representatives from all military services and the Defense Supply Agency. Purpose is to stimulate interest in value engineering.

MILITARY AIRLIFT Command is seeking volunteer pilots and navigators to make high-altitude flights with its 58th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron. The squadron flies air sampling missions in RB-57F aircraft. Pilots and navigators interested in flying with the 58th should contact Commander, 58th Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, Kirtland AFB, N.M., 87117.

NAVY SHIP'S STORES OFFICE has opened a Fleet Assistance Program Branch Office in Norfolk, Va., in an effort to improve operations of Ship's Stores Afloat in the Atlantic Fleet. According to NSSO officials, the new branch will provide Ship's Stores Afloat with technical assistance and guidance in resale matters.

AIR FORCE RESERVE 940th Military Airlift Group, McClellan AFB, has received the Loening Trophy for overall excellence. Presentation was made by Lt. Gen. Henry Viccellio, commander, Continental Air Command, during ceremonies at CAC's commanders' conference in San Francisco on March 15.

REDEYE AIR DEFENSE missile system is being tested in the field by 101st Airborne Division, Ft. Campbell, Ky. Redeye, small surface-to-air missile, can be carried by one man and fired from the shoulder. It provides small unit anti-aircraft defense.

A $1.6 MILLION definitization of letter contract for XM27E1 aircraft armament sub-systems for OH-6A (Cayuse) helicopters is being issued to Hughes Tool Co. Weapons Command, Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island, Ill., is awarding the contract.

SECOND ANNUAL RESEARCH Applications Conference, sponsored by Air Force's Office of Aerospace Research, was held in Washington on March 14. Purpose of the one-day conference was to highlight significant findings in OAR programs which have made important contributions toward solving Air Force and Department of Defense technical problems, or which have a high potential for future development.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Defense Department Leaders Praise Red Cross Services

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara joined with top level military commanders in extending congratulations to the American Red Cross during the Presidentially-proclaimed "American Red Cross Month" in March.

Praising the Red Cross for its services to the U.S. Armed Forces and to civilians stricken by disaster, McNamara said "it is therefore fitting that we salute this fine organization . . . and thank them for the magnificent job they are performing."

Among the top level military commanders who endorsed Red Cross operations both abroad and in the United States were Gen. Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Adm. David L. McDonald, chief of Naval Operations; Gen. Harold K. Johnson, Army Chief of Staff; Gen. J. P. McConnell, Air Force Chief of Staff, and Gen. W. C. Westmoreland, commander of U.S. forces in South Vietnam.

"Every Month Red Cross Month"

Gen. Westmoreland stated, "In the United States—this is national Red Cross month. But here in Vietnam, every month is Red Cross month to the commanders and men who benefit from the many services the Red Cross provides.

"The outstanding performance of the Red Cross in support of our armed forces in Vietnam merits the wholehearted support of the American public. The men and women of the Red Cross go where they are needed—and they are needed in Vietnam."

Gen. Wheeler asked the American public to "respond to the President's call to support this great humanitarian institution," after stating that "the ability of the Red Cross to serve all of us depends upon each of us—our personal involvement and financial support."

Navy Submarine Salvage System Expected to Be Operational by 1970

Navy plans to have operational by 1970 a salvage system to rescue intact submarine hulls from waters as deep as 850 feet.

Design studies leading to procurement of component parts have been scheduled through July. SEALAB III experiments slated for later this year will permit preliminary testing.

Navy is studying three broad areas—surface ship requirements, lifting mechanism and diver support equipment.

Navy already has capability to rescue personnel from subs lost in relatively shallow water. Current development of small submarine rescue vessels would increase rescue depths.

PACAF CHIEF VISITS TAN SON NHUT—Gen. John D. Ryan, (left) Pacific Air Forces commander-in-chief, is welcomed to Tan Son Nhut air base near Saigon by Lt. Gen. William W. Momyer, 7th Air Force commander. General Ryan is on a tour of U.S. installations in South Vietnam.

DOD, State Dept. Explain Policy On RVN Court-Martial Jurisdiction

U.S. policy concerning court-martial jurisdiction over American civilians in Vietnam is based on full respect for the sovereign authority of the Republic of Vietnam.

"In no event will U.S. civilians serving with or accompanying and having a direct connection with our armed forces in Vietnam be tried by court-martial except where the Vietnamese Government has waived jurisdiction," a joint Department of Defense and State Department announcement said.

The statement elaborated that other Americans not connected with the armed forces in Vietnam—businessmen, newsmen, tourists—would clearly not be subject to court-martial.

The policy did allow, however, for some degree of military police control over civilians where immediate action is required and where Vietnamese police are not readily available.

"American authorities will advise Vietnamese police authorities of any such action," the policy statement said.

The statement also said joint Vietnamese and American police patrols would be stepped-up.

General Officer Shifts Announced by Army

Several actions concerning Army general officers have been announced, including the retirement of Gen. Paul L. Freeman Jr., CG, U.S. Continental Army Command, July 1.

President Johnson named Gen. Freeman for retired list placement in general grade. The USMA graduate will retire after 37 years active service.

Gen. Freeman will be succeeded by Lt. Gen. James K. Woolnough, Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel, who was also named for four-star appointment.

Lt. Gen. Bruce Palmer Jr., CG, XVIII Airborne Corps, Ft. Bragg, N. C., was named by Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara for assignment as CG, II Field Force, Vietnam.

Gen. Palmer replaces Lt. Gen. Jonathan O. Seaman, who is being reassigned as special assistant to the Army Chief of Staff.

Lt. Gen. John L. Throckmorton was named by the Defense Secretary to succeed Gen. Palmer. Gen. Throckmorton is currently Director of Special Studies, Office of the Chief of Staff, and Senior Member, United Nations Military Staff Committee.

Air-Transportable Equipment Aids Seabee Construction in RVN

Seabee construction battalions in Vietnam are using helicopters to move airstrip building and other equipment over VC infested jungles to American military camps.

The naval engineers have developed new light air-transportable equipment that is carried by the CH-54 Flying Crane, the CH-53A Sea Stallion, and the smaller CH-47 helicopters.

An example of this effort was the recent airstrip constructed at the Special Forces encampment at Ba To. Equipment was air dropped from 4,000 feet. In slightly less than seven weeks, Naval Construction Battalion Nine carved out a 4,000 foot airstrip.

ARMS CONTROL CITATION—Capt. Owen A. Roberts, USN, (left) receives the Joint Service Commendation Medal from Lt. Gen. Alfred D. Starbird, USA, director of the Defense Communications Agency. Capt. Roberts, presently assigned to the DCA planning group in Arlington, Va., was cited for meritorious service while with the Office of the Special Assistant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Arms Control.

Army Command Info Chief On U.S., Overseas Tour

The Army Command Information Chief, Col. C. R. Thomas, is touring United States and overseas units to confer with commanders and staff officers in connection with the Department of Defense's leadership communications program.

Conceived in 1966, the purpose of the program is to point out to Army commanders changes in the world environment brought about by advanced communications technology. His visits are also a furtherance of President Johnson's program for improving service to and communications with the public.

Among the areas Col. Thomas is scheduled to visit during March are Korea and Japan. In April he is scheduled to tour units in Okinawa and Hawaii. From May 8-26, Col. Thomas is scheduled to visit command elements in Europe.

AF Rescue Unit Gets Presidential Citation

President Johnson has awarded th Presidential Unit Citation to the 3r Aerospace Rescue and Recover Group, Military Airlift Command— the second such citation to member of the Air Force operating rescu aircraft in Southeast Asia.

The previous Presidential Unit C tation was awarded to the 38th A Rescue Sq., which is now part of th group.

The citation presented to the Grou covered a period from Aug. 1, 19 to June 30, 1966. During this perio operating a variety of helicopter and other rescue aircraft, the grou recovered 339 friendly troops, savi 304 of them from almost certain ca ture by hostile forces.

Rescues made by the group ran from open water pick-ups by a phibian in the Gulf of Tonkin, whi under fire from Communist shore ba teries, to rescue by helicopter de within North Vietnam.

The unit also performed many re cues of injured military personn within South Vietnam.

Three WAF Volunteer For Saigon Assignment

Three Women in the Air For (WAF) have volunteered to be t first permanently assigned to Seven Air Force headquarters in Saigon.

Scheduled for an April reporti date are Capt. Kay Ruber, Lind AS, Germany; Capt. Lillian M. Lew Scott AFB, Ill.; and 1st Lt. Kathle F. Sabo, Francis E. Warren AF Wyo.

The three are in addition to the WAF announced earlier for Southea Asia assignments as vacancies occ These include nine enlisted WAF a a lieutenant colonel.

WAF Director Col. Jeanne Holm's office said it has been delug with requests for more informati on Southeast Asia duty. In m cases assignment is on a volunte basis.

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